

Remarks

Applicant respectfully acknowledges that claims 3, 5, 11, 13, 14, 23, 25, 31, 33, and 34 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 21, 22, 24, 26-28, and 41-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Luhmann U.S. Patent No. 5,409,189, and claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 15, 16-22, 24, 26-30, 32, and 35-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Luhmann U.S. Patent No. 5,409,189. Applicant respectfully disagrees that the present invention is either anticipated by or is otherwise unpatentable in view of the cited reference and believes that the claims currently pending in the application are patentable over the cited reference for the reasons outlined below.

The Luhmann U.S. Patent No. 5,409,189 discloses an adhesive strip 1 provided with a covering 4 which forms a tab. A baseplate 3, which includes a peg-like extension 2 in its upper region, is applied on the front side of the adhesive strip above the covering 4. The reverse side of the adhesive strip 1 is covered over its entire surface with a release paper or release film 5, a part of which at the lower end serves as the tab 6. (See Col. 3, lines 46-54 and Fig. 1) Applicant has carefully reviewed the cited reference and has been unable to find any support for the Examiner's statement that the drawing shows a connector or that the connector may be an interlocking or intermeshing material. Rather, Fig. 1 shows an adhesive strip 1 having a uniform cross section and does not show separable connector surface. This is further supported by claim 1 which indicates that the strip 1 has an adhesive front and back for mounting the strip onto a surface. Claim 1 also explains that the release layer 5 is removed so that the rear of the strip 1 can be affixed to a surface. Thus, it is clear that the release layer is not a separable connector surface which allows the adhesive strip to be connected, disconnected and reconnected to a cooperating connection surface without destruction of the separable connection surface and the adhesive tape as defined in claims 1, 21, 41, 44, and 45 of the present application.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 21, 22, 24, 26-28, and 41-45 as being anticipated by Luhmann U.S. Patent No. 5,409,189 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), and the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 15, 16-22, 24, 26-30, 32, and 35-45 as being

unpatentable over Luhmann 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are unwarranted and should be withdrawn.
Reconsideration is requested.

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If a telephonic conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding matters in the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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